The People's Korea

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New Year Address of President KIM IL SUNG (Full Text)

Last year, the DPRK attained a 15% high growth in the total industrial output, produced 9 million tons of grain and increased its exports of goods by 30% over the 1978 figure, with its per capita national income of 1,920 dollars. President Kim Il Sung said in his New Year address of 1980. This remarkable economic performance compares with those of the stagflation-ridden countries of the world.

The central task of 1980, the President said, is to normalize production and to advance the technical revolution.

For the effective use of the vast production potentials of the country, President Kim Il Sung said, continued stress should be given to mining industry, especially coal. He referred to the need to attach priority to foreign trade with the credit-first policy observed.

More than 85% of railway traction is planned to be electrified this year. Technical revolution was indispensable part of the Juche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the national economy, the President stated.

He set this year's grain production target at 9.5 million tons. He called upon the nation to greet the 6th Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea scheduled for October with higher political zeal and fresh industrial achievements.

Referring to the hard struggle of the south Korean people for democracy and reunification, President Kim Il Sung expressed hope that they will win victory.

He voiced the continued commitment of the DPRK to friendship with the socialist countries, the Third World countries and other countries.

Follows the full text of the New Year address:

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Comrades,

We greet the first morning of the first year of the 1980's with a new hope and a high ambition.

All the people of our country are now starting on the first march of the 1980's with high revolutionary enthusiasm and fighting spirit and great confidence. The 1980's will be a glorious epoch when a historic change will take place in our people's struggle for victory in the revolution and the prosperity of our country.

Greeting the New Year which will be resplendent with victory and glory, I offer my warm congratulations to all our people including our home-working class, cooperative farmers, men and officers of the People's Army and working intellectuals who are fighting with full devotion for the party and the revolution.

Seeing the hopeful New Year in, I extend militant greetings to the revolutionaries, patriotic democrats, youth and students and people from all other social sectors in south Korea who are fighting unyieldingly for the democratization of society and the reunification of the country.

I warmly congratulate the members of various delegations of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) who are on a visit to the homeland and are celebrating the New Year with us, and extend New Year greetings to all our overseas compatriots including our 600,000 fellow countrymen in Japan who are struggling courageously for their democratic national rights and their socialist homeland.

Today we look back joyously with the high pride and self-confidence of victors on the results of our endeavours of last year which splendidly decorated the end of the 1970's.

1979 was a year of brilliant victories when great successes were achieved in all fields of the building of socialism.

Industrial Growth of 15%

Last year our people carried on the ideological, technical and cultural revolutions vigorously under the banner of the Juche idea and brought about a new advancement in production and construction, fulfilling the yearly plans far ahead of schedule. The total industrial output value increased to 115 percent as compared with 1978. Thus, a decisive advance was made in the fulfilment of the Second Seven-Year Plan and our independent national economy further strengthened.

The workers in the mining industry boundlessly faithful to the party and the revolution achieved brilliant successes in the production of coal and other minerals by working energetically upholding the party's policy of keeping the mining industries ahead of the manufacturing industries. In particular, the workers in the coal industry reconstructed and expanded large-scale coal mines including those in the Anju district in a big way and developed medium and small ones actively, so that coal production increased remarkably and the demands of the national economy for coal were fully met.

The workers in other industrial branches, such as power, metal, chemical and building-materials industries, too, carried out their revolutionary tasks with credit and ensured a high growth of production. Compared with 1978, the output of electric power rose to 114 percent, rolled steel to 115 percent, chemical fertilizer to 113 percent and cement to 121 percent.

Last year a great innovation was made on the transport front. Upholding the decision of the 14th Plenary Meeting of the Fifth Central Committee of the Party, our valorous transport workers increased the transport capacity markedly by actively switching over the railways to electric traction and carrying out port expansion projects with vigour, and ensured transport satisfactorily by improving the organization of transport and efficiently carrying on centralized transport, combined communication and container transport.

A great deal of work was done in capital construction, too. Displaying the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance, the builders vigorously pushed forward major construction projects and erected a large number of modern factories and production establishments including the high-pressure polyethylene factory and Orlon factory of the Youth Chemical Complex, the No. 2 General Processing Shop of the Taean Heavy Machine Combine and the 110-metre revolving furnace of the Tanchon Magnesia Factory.

1.3-Fold Increase in Exports of Goods

A great success was registered in foreign trade. In all branches of the national economy the preferential production of export goods was ensured and the sources of exportation were actively tapped through a mass movement, with the result that the exports of goods showed a 1.3-fold increase over 1978 and that the solid foundation was laid for further expanding and developing foreign trade in the future.

9 Mil. Tons of Grain Production

In agriculture, the richest harvest ever known in our history was gathered in. Our industrious agricultural workers did farming in a scientific way as required by the Juche methods of farming, bravely overcoming all adverse weather conditions with great fidelity to the party and the revolution, and reached the height of nine million tons in grain production. This is a splendid result.

The brilliant achievements made in agriculture clearly prove the correctness of our party's agricultural policy and the vitality of the Juche methods of farming. We can naturally be proud of the fact that when crop failures continue in other parts of the world owing to the cold front, agricultural production is increasing steadily in our country.

I express my warm thanks to all our agricultural workers and their helpers for the great success they achieved last year in farm production by carrying through the party's agricultural policy.

Excellent results were registered in scientific research work and in the technical revolution. Our scientists, technicians and three-revolution-team crew, who are infinitely loyal to the party and the revolution, energetically carried on their scientific researches and the technical innovation movement, adhering to the Juche position, and made numerous valuable scientific inventions and technical innovations which are of great economic significance. In particular, they succeeded in producing new varieties of crops and developing a new method of casting. This greatly contributed to Juche-orienting, modernizing and scientizing the national economy.

Per Capita National Income of 1,920 Dollars

I extend my warm gratitude to the scientists, technicians and three-revolution-team crew who scored the brilliant successes in scientific researches and the technical innovation movement by displaying a high degree of revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude as masters of revolution.

With all the people taking an active part in production and construction and labour productivity steadily rising, the national income increased quickly. Our per capita national income last year, if computed in dollars, was as much as 1,920 dollars. This shows that the material and technical foundations of our country are very solid and that our people's living standard is very high. The national income which is daily growing thanks to the popular policies of our party, is devoted totally to the prosperity and development of the country and the promotion of the people's welfare.

Amidst the worthy struggle for the revolution and construction last year, our revolutionary ranks grew further in strength. Great strides were made in the work of imbuing the whole of society with the Juche idea, and the political and ideological unity of the popular masses was cemented rock-firm on the basis of the Juche idea.

All the victories and successes won in socialist construction last year were the fruits of the struggle of the entire people who, united solidly around our party, worked with a high degree of revolutionary enthusiasm and creative initiative.

I warmly thank our workers, farmers, soldiers, working intellectuals and all the rest of the people for the immortal exploits they performed in the revolutionary struggle and construction work last year.

6th WPK Congress to Be Held

Comrades,

The year 1980 is a very significant year when the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will be called.

At the news of the convening of the Sixth Party Congress, all the party members and other working people are in great excitement and delight warmly welcoming its convocation.

The Sixth Party Congress will be a historic congress that will sum up our party's and people's splendid achievements and valuable experience in socialist construction and put forward a new action programme; it will be a milestone in further developing our party's fighting efficiency and developing our revolution onto a higher stage.

The entire party and people should rise up in arms in the glorious Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea with success and make this year of party congress one of the most brilliant years in the nation's history. "Let us meet the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea with high political zeal and splendid labour achievements!" is the militant slogan our party and people should put up this year.

All the party members and working people must display unbounded loyalty to the party and the revolution and high revolutionary enthusiasm to make the whole country witness the political elation and to effect a new change on all fronts of socialist construction.

Vast Productive Potentials

The central task of socialist economic construction this year is to bring about a radical progress by normalizing production and carrying out the technical revolution briskly in all its spheres.

We must work hard to normalize production in all branches of the national economy.

At present our country has vast productive potentials. If we operate all our factories and enterprises at full capacity and normalize production on a high level, we will be able to increase production considerably and make our people still better off with the existing economic foundation.

In order to carry on production rhythmically, we must thoroughly implement the party's policy of keeping the mining industries ahead of the manufacturing industries. Only when the mining industries keep definitely ahead, is it possible to solve fuel and power problems successfully, supply the manufacturing industries with sufficient raw materials and greatly expand the sources of foreign currency.

Priority to Coal Production

This year too, in order to fully meet the national economy's increasing demands for coal, we must exert much efforts for the production of coal under the slogan of "Every effort to produce more coal!" in coal mining we must keep increasing the output of anthracite, while at the same time striving to raise the output of high-caloric and coking coals at the mines in the Anju and northern districts.

In ore mining we must rebuild the existing mines on an expansion basis and develop new ones to produce various non-ferrous metals in larger quantities.

In order to increase the output of coal and other minerals all mines must give precedence to the removal of soil and rock and tunnelling and build permanent and concrete pits and take thoroughgoing measures for production in summer and winter. Meanwhile, they must thoroughly implement the party's policy of extracting, transporting and processing large quantities by enlarging and modernizing mining equipment and stepping up the overall mechanization of the operations in the pits.

Improving transport has a decisive importance in keeping production rhythmical and quickly developing the national economy as a whole. In the sphere of transport they must improve the organization of transport and fully apply the three methods of transport to bring about a new change.

In railway transport we must continue this year to step up the electrification to increase the proportion of electric traction to more than 85 percent, make means of transport up-to-date and heavy, guarantee the high speed of train operation and thus increase the haulage.

Along with railway transport, motor and water transport should be developed. In order to meet the actual requirements of our fast-developing foreign trade, it is particularly necessary to actively develop water transport through building more cargo ships, opening river routes, rebuilding and expanding the trade ports.

Stress on Foreign Trade

This year, too, we must devote great efforts to the development of foreign trade.

We must widen the scope of foreign trade by actively tapping the sources of export in all fields of the national economy and making it multilateral and diverse.

To conduct foreign trade well, the credit-first principle must be strictly observed. Everywhere precedence should be given to the production of export goods, their packing and quality improved, and the date of delivery kept without fail through the proper organization of shipment.

In order to normalize production, economic direction and enterprise management must be improved to meet the requirements of the Taean system.

The plan for development of the national economy is the party's directive and the state's law. Leading economic officials should map out good detailed plans and enforce strict discipline for cooperative production and thus see to it that all factories and enterprises unfailingly carry out their daily, monthly and quarterly plans in all indices.

Factories and enterprises must check and repair their equipment in time, and take good care of them, and raise their utilization to the maximum by using them to full capacity.

In all fields of the national economy, more and better goods should be produced with existing manpower, equipment and materials through strong efforts for the economy of materials and improvement of the quality of products.

An important task confronting us this year is to push ahead energetically with the technical revolution.

Only then can we increase production speedily and base the national economy on Juche and modernize and scientize it.

Stress on Technical Revolution

This year we must carry out the technical revolution with vigour and make giant strides in th Juche-orientation of the national economy.

In the metallurgical industry we must enhance its Juche character and increase the output of pig iron and steel by building many metallurgical furnaces fed with our own fuel and actively introducing new metallurgical processes.

As for the chemical industry we must readjust and reinforce the existing factories and diversify this industry by using our abundant limestone and anthracite as raw materials, and thus produce various chemical goods in greater quantities.

In the building-materials industry a vigorous effort should be made to produce more good-quality cement and magnesia clinker through modernizing calcination ovens and expanding raw material bases, to enlarge the assortment of fire-proof materials and to improve their quality.

The technical revolution is immediately the mechanical revolution, and the modernization of the national economy will be effected precisely through the modernization of machines.

This year the engineering industry should actively introduce new casting processes, radically raise the proportion of stamp forging and pressing methods, and effect the semi- and full-automation of production processes extensively, thus bringing about innovation in the production of machines and equipment. Stress should be laid especially on the manufacture of large-size machines to produce more of such machines and equipment needed for the improvement of the technical outfit in various branches of the national economy and for the grand nature-remaking projects.

We should further raise the scientific standard of our national economy this year. To this end, we must make more inventions of great technical and economic value through intensified scientific research work and positively introduce the achievements of the researches into production.

In order to push ahead energetically with the technical revolution, it is imperative to strengthen the ideological struggle against conservatism, passiveness, and fear of technology, enhance the role of scientists and technicians and carry on a vigorous technical innovation drive among the producer masses.

9.5 Mil. Tons of Grain Output to Be Attained

In agriculture strong endeavours should be made to hit the 9.5 million-ton target of grain production this year.

The basic way of boosting agricultural production is to put farming on a scientific basis in keeping with the requirements of the Juche methods of farming. All farm work must be carried out qualitatively in season, and manuring and tending of crops be done well in a way conforming to scientific principles.

Now that the per-chongbo yields of grain have attained a very high level, an important reserve for increasing grain production lies in expanding the crop area. The crop area should be expanded through a strenuous effort to find new lands everywhere, lay out terraced fields and reclaim the tidelands.

Vigorous efforts should be made to increase the production of tobacco and other industrial crops and develop stockbreeding, fruit growing and silk raising.

I firmly believe that this year all the party members and working people in the domain of agriculture will turn out one and achieve a brilliant success in their efforts for reaching the 9.5 million-ton target of grain production.

It is our party's invariable policy to raise the people's living standard steadily.

This year light industry should operate daily necessities, foodstuff and cornstarch factories at full capacity to produce various quality goods of daily use and agreeable and nutritious foodstuffs in larger quantities.

To develop the fishing industry and catch large quantities of fish is of importance in improving the dietary life of the people. At present, the fishermen are conducting a vigorous winter campaign for fish catch with great fidelity to the party and the revolution; they are getting a good catch exceeding 30,000 tons a day.

I extend warm thanks to our dauntless fishermen for the vigorous campaign they are conducting to catch fish on the rough seas to provide the people with more seafood.

This year the fishing industry should establish a scientific system of fishery and modernize fishing vessels and tackle to catch more fish. Fish-pools, cold-storage plants and processing installations should be expanded so that not a single caught fish is spoilt and that the people are supplied with fish all the year round.

Construction of Hydraulic Power Stations

We are faced with the weighty task of working to dam up rivers and build hydroelectric power stations from this year.

This work is a great nature-remaking project under a far-sighted programme to increase power production, prevent floods and make our country beautiful.

From this year on, the party, the army and the people must all turn out to build many large and small dams on rivers and set up a large number of hydroelectric power stations, so that our hydraulic resources are used effectively for socialist construction and that our country is turned into a land of bliss for the people free from any flood disaster.

In the spheres of education, culture and public health service we must greet our Party's Sixth Congress splendidly with greater successes in the development of socialist culture.

The officers and men of the People's Army and the People's Security Forces must further increase the combat readiness and efficiency of their units through good field and political training and always stand by on their guard to defend firmly the security of the country and the gains of the revolution.

In order to bring about a new turn in socialist construction this year, leading officials must enhance their sense of responsibility and role. In the attitude of masters towards the revolution, they should all responsibly organize and direct the battle for socialist construction and courageously lead the masses to pull through the hardships and obstacles in their way.

Party bodies and mass organizations at all levels should intensify political and ideological work among the working people and launch a vigorous movement for them to follow the example of the recently discovered heroes, so that they all work devotedly for the building of socialism with great fidelity to the party and the revolution and the revolutionary spirit of self-reliance and fortitude.

The south Korean revolutionaries and people are now fighting for the democratization of south Korean society and the country's reunification under great adversity.

I would like to extend my full support and encouragement to the south Korean people in their righteous, patriotic struggle, and wish them a greater success in their struggle in the New Year.

I would also like to express my deep gratitude and offer New Year wishes and greetings to the peoples of all countries and our friends the world over who are giving strong support and encouragement to our people's revolutionary cause.

This year, too, our party and the Government of the Republic will strive to strengthen solidarity with the peoples of socialist countries and to promote friendly and cooperative relations with the peoples of non-aligned countries, the Third World nations, and all other lands on the globe.

Comrades,

Our revolutionary tasks this year are very difficult and tremendous, and the entire party and people need to make strenuous efforts to cope with them.

All the party members and working people should continue to make innovations and progress in the spirit of Chollima spurred on by the speed campaign and fulfil this year's national economic plan ahead of schedule, before the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, and thus greet the congress as honourable victors.

Let us all struggle vigorously, under the unfurled revolutionary banner of the Juche idea, to effect a fresh upswing in the building of socialism and move up the bright communist future.

(Subtitles are ours...Ed.)

A joyful New Year performance of school children in Pyongyang was held on December 31 at the Pyongyang Indoor Stadium, ushering in the New Year 1980, with the presence of President Kim Il Sung, KCNA reported.

Representatives of foreign diplomatic missions and foreign guests in Pyongyang were invited to the New Year performance.

The New Year performance of 5,000 school children in Pyongyang showed their happy life in stoutly growing as reserves of the revolution prepared mentally, morally and physically and proud successes registered by the Korean people in socialist construction.

President Greets Chongryun Chairman

Ushering in the New Year 1980, President Kim Il Sung sent a message of greetings to Han Duk Su, Chairman of the Central Standing Committee of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun).

Follows its gist:

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With the ideological system of Juche being firmly established in the Chongryun organisation and the patriotic zeal of the compatriots rising extraordinarily high, big successes were achieved in the work of defending the socialist homeland, safeguarding the democratic, national rights, supporting the patriotic struggle of the south Korean people and strengthening solidarity with the Japanese people and the revolutionary people of the world.

1980 is a very significant year in the revolutionary struggle of our people and the movement of Koreans in Japan. The Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea, the guiding force of the Korean people, will be held this year in the homeland.

This year Chongryun will significantly mark the 25th anniversary of its formation with high pride in the road of victory and glory it has covered under the banner of Juche.

In the New Year the Chongryun functionaries and compatriots in Japan should bring about new innovation in the patriotic work with greater hope and confidence to adorn 1980 as a year of glory which will be proudly recorded in the history of the movement of Koreans in Japan.

Chongryun should continue to direct much efforts to thoroughly establishing the ideological system of Juche and firmly building up the nuclear ranks.

The Chongryun organisations should strengthen education in the Juche idea to make all the functionaries and compatriots live, as required by the Juche idea, wholly and entrust their destiny to the socialist homeland and unite firmly around the Workers' Party of Korea and the Government of the Republic without the slightest wavering in any wind.

In conformity with the demand of the prevailing situation Chongryun should enlist the high patriotic zeal and creative ingenuity of the compatriots in vigorously waging the struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country and actively supporting the struggle of the south Korean people for democracy.

Along with this, it should more briskly wage the movement of solidarity with the Japanese people and the revolutionary people of the world.

As true servants of compatriots, all the cadres and functionaries of Chongryun should go down deep among the masses, realise their demands and solve their difficult problems in time and firmly defend the democratic, national rights of the compatriots.

New Year Message to Our Readers

Chongryun Chairman Han Duk Su

With the advent of the New Year of 1980, I, in the name of the Central Standing Committee of Chongryun (the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan) and of the entire Korean community in this country, extend fervent felicitations to the readers of The People's Korea.

On this occasion, I express wholehearted thanks to those friends of the world who have rendered unreserved support and encouragement to the struggle of the Korean people for the independent and peaceful settlement of the reunification issue and to all the patriotic activities of my organization.

The last year of 1979 witnessed a number of major events on the world scene and proved significant for the Korean people as it ended the 1970's of radical changes.

In the northern half of the DPRK, the 2nd year assignments of the 2nd Seven-Year Plan were successfully carried out ahead of schedule with remarkable progress in making the economy Juche-oriented, up-to-date and scientific, its foundations being reinforced.

The international prestige of the DPRK grew as evidenced by the 35th World Table Tennis Championships hosted in Pyongyang and with active interchange with various countries.

On the south Korean scene the campaign gained greater momentum to oppose the "yusin" dictatorial regime and restore democracy, involving all the social sectors.

Dissidents, workers, peasants, students, Christians and intellectuals undertook valiant actions in Seoul and other parts of the country, demanding the removal of the Park Jung Hi dictatorship, democratic freedom and the right to a decent living.

This incessant struggle led to large-scale riots in Pusan and Masan in October.

In this context came the slaying of Pak Jung Hi by one of his associates as he ruled with dictatorial powers for the last 18 years, a worthy end as a despot.

The death of the strongman paved a new phase in the struggle for the complete abolition of the "yusin" dictatorship and the restoration of democratic order.

The local people are determined to continue the old autocratic rule and perpetuate the division of the country in collusion with the military,while keeping south Korea under martial law and clamoring for "gradual reforms." They are turning a deaf ear to the public demand for democracy and territorial reunification.

These deceptive moves will never pass unpunished at the hands of the south Korean people.

Last year saw the struggle of the Korean people for reunification receive greater international support.

In many countries numerous events were organized in demand of the immediate withdrawal of U.S. military forces from south Korea, an end to the "two-Korea" policy and the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea.

Hundreds of millions of signatures were collected in various countries, supporting the reunification of Korea, and a series of national and international meetings were held, with resolutions unanimously adopted, supporting the reunification.

Japan was a scene of extensive support campaigns. Its people strongly urged their government to discontinue the questionable relationships with Seoul and change its Korean policy. More than 1,500 local assemblies passed resolutions supporting the reunification cause of the Korean people.

Such global solidarity movements greatly inspired the Korean people and contributed to the creation of a favorable international climate for the reunification of their country.

In Japan the resident Koreans, upholding the fair reunification policy of President Kim Il Sung, their great leader, made strenuous efforts to end the tragic national division and achieve the earliest peaceful and independent reintegration of the country.

In particular, my organization organized the resident Koreans in a drive for the withdrawal of American forces from south Korea, to encourage the south Korean struggle for democracy and to achieve north-south cooperation and talks.

Ringing in 1980, a year of fresh victory and glory for the peoples of the world struggling for peace, democracy and social progress, we have renewed our resolve to bring earlier the independent and peaceful reunification of Korea, the supreme national task of its people.

This year Chongryun becomes 25 years old. To add lustre to this auspicious year, we will faithfully carry out our honorable national duty.

In the New Year, we will do everything we can to attain a new turn in the efforts for reunification, by rallying closer behind our respected and beloved leader President Kim Il Sung.

We are convinced that readers of The People's Korea and the peoples of the world will give greater support to the Korean people in their struggle for the independent and peaceful reunification of the country.

I sincerely wish readers of The People's Korea good health and fresh success in their work.

January 1, 1980
Tokyo

Vice-Premier Ro Tae Sok Passes Away

Ro Tae Sok, Alternate Member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea and Member of the Central People's Committee, Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and Chairman of the State Planning Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, died at the age of 60 on December 31 in an unexpected accident, KCNA reported.

President Kim Il Sung on December 31 expressed deep mourning before the bier of the late Vice-Premier Ro Tae Sok.

At the news of the death of Vice-Premier Ro Tae Sok, functionaries of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, the Central People's Committee, the Administration Council, Commissions and Ministries of the Administration Council of the DPRK, working people's organizations and Pyongyang Municipal Party and administrative organs on December 21 and January 1 visited the Sojang Club in Potonggang district, Pyongyang, where the bier of the deceased was lying in state and expressed mourning.

A state funeral of the late Vice-Premier Ro Tae Sok was held on January 3 in Pyongyang.

Attending the funeral service together with the bereaved family and relatives of the deceased were Li Jong Ok, Kye Ung Tae, Kim Man Gum, Kang Song San, Chong Jun Gi, Yun Gi Bok, Choe Ja U, Kim Du Yong and Kim Gyong Ryon and chairmen of commissions and ministers of the Administration Council.

His Brief History

Ro Tae Sok was born on August 25, 1919, in a worker family in Miryang county, South Kyongsang Province.

After liberation he continuously worked at important posts of state economic organs under the deep trust and solicitude of President Kim Il Sung.

From 1946 he worked as a managerial worker of the Hungnam Fertilizer Factory, Vice-Chairman of the State Planning Commission, director of a department of the Central Committee of the Party and First Vice-Chairman of the Commission of Heavy Industry. He worked as Vice-Premier of the Administration Council from August 1978, and Vice-Premier of the Administration Council and concurrently Chairman of the State Planning Commission from November 1979.

He was elected deputy to the Fifth and Sixth Supreme People's Assembly of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea from December 1972, and elected member of the Central People's Committee of the DPRK in November 1976.

He was elected Alternate Member of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea at the Fourth Congress of the WPK in September 1961, Member of the Central Committee of the WPK at its Fifth Congress in November 1970 and Alternate Member of the Political Committee of the Central Committee of the WPK at the 17th Plenary Meeting of its Fifth Central Committee in November 1978.

He was awarded the Order of the 20th Anniversary of the Founding of the Republic, the Order of Labour and Orders of National Flag for his distinguished services in the struggle for the building of a new socialist country and in the struggle for the consolidation of the party and the revolutionary power and the socialist construction of the country.

420 Mil. Yen Scholarships Sent Here

The DPRK sent educational aid fund and stipends amounting to 420 million yen (in Japanese currency) to the Korean citizens in Japan who are greeting the hopeful New Year, according to a January 1 KCNA report.

With this it has sent educational aid fund and stipends totalling 27,832,827,033 yen (in Japanese currency) in 74 instalments.

The latest instalment will make the Korean citizens in Japan happy on the New Year and contribute to the work for developing the democratic national education of the General Association of Korean Residents in Japan (Chongryun).

Last year, the DPRK sent educational aid fund and stipends for three times, totalling 1.55 billion yen (in Japanese currency).

The last instalment of 1979 was sent on December 14.

Rosy Picture of DPRK

A rosy picture of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was unveiled by President Kim Il Sung in his annual New Year address, which was aired by the Korean Central News Agency on the first of January.

He said as follows:

"With all the people taking an active part in production and construction and labour productivity steadily rising, the national income increased quickly. Our per capita national income last year, if computed in dollars, was as much as 1,920 dollars. This shows that the material and technical foundations of our country are very solid and that our people's living standard is very high. The national income which is daily growing thanks to the popular policies of our party, is devoted totally to the prosperity and development of the country and the promotion of the people's welfare."

PER CAPITA NATIONAL INCOME

As last year per capita national income mounted as much as 1,920 dollars, over 65 percent of which are derived from industrial elements, the DPRK has now ranked among developed countries in per capita national income and the output of major industrial products. In 1974, per capita national income already surpassed 1,000 dollars, 1.7 times that in 1970. So, it nearly doubled only in five years.

The wages have been steadily raised, while prices lowered drastically. In 1970, for instance, the payscale was increased by 31.5 percent on an average. Soon, it was raised again by 10 to 24 percent. Meanwhile, the prices of over 21,800 daily necessities were lowered by an average of 30-50 percent in 1974. Consequently, the real income of workers grew 1.7 times and that of farmers 1.8 times per household during the period of the six-year plan. In step with the increasing income, the people's welfare has been rapidly promoted and their living standard highly improved in the DPRK.

The principal task of the current seven-year plan is to raise the living standard still higher as well as to further strengthen the economic basis of socialism, by accelerating the Juche-orientation, modernization and scientification of the economy.

GRAIN

Another remarkable achievement is a record crop in agriculture. Last year, the country harvested 9 million tons of grain, despite adverse weather conditions.

Owing to the cold front, the world has been suffering from continuous crop failure. A report of the U.S. Department of Agriculture published in September last, predicted that the world grain output for July, 1979 to June, 1980 would be reduced to 1,380 million tons due to bad weather, down 60 million tons from the previous year. It also warned that the world grain storage would be reduced to 189 million tons from 227 million tons at present by June, 1980, the lowest level in the last four years.

But, the DPRK is an exception to this. Its agricultural production has been on the steady rise. The country turned out 7 million tons of grain in 1974, 8 million tons in 1976, 8.5 million tons in 1977 and 9 million tons in 1979. This year, 9.5 million tons are envisaged. The target of the second seven-year plan (1978-1984) is 10 million tons, which are now clearly visual. In 1946 right after Korea's independence from the Japanese colonial rule, the figure was merely 1,898,000 tons. Today, the country's storage of food is constantly kept enough to feed the nation. What is more, it is one of the world's grain exporters. There is no food problem now hitting the world.

The DPRK's success story of agriculture is a result of the Juche-methods of farming based on a scientific way.

The country has set up a nation-wide irrigation system. There are 1,500 reservoirs throughout the country. In addition, underground water has been fully made available for agricultural purpose. As well, river embankments and tidewater control dikes have been built across the country. Consequently, the Korean agriculture remains completely protective from any natural disaster such as drought and flood.

Also, special efforts have been directing to reclamation, which is vitally required to increase the agricultural production in the mountainous country where the arable land is extremely limited. The seven-year plan envisages reclaiming 100,000-hectare tideland.

In the DPRK both irrigation and electrification of agriculture have already been completed. Now, comprehensive mechanization and chemicalization, too, are near completion. Today, 7 to 8 tractors are operating per 100 hectares, and 1.5 tons of chemical fertilizer are applied per hectare of paddy and non-paddy fields. Within a few years, the former will be increased 8 to 10, and the latter 2 tons.

FOREIGN TRADE

Also, a great success was registered in foreign trade. Last year witnessed a 1.3-fold increase of exports over the previous year. In his New Year address for 1979, President Kim Il Sung called for greater efforts to develop foreign trade. For this purpose, the DPRK has strictly observed the credit-first principle. At the same time, special attention was given to the production of export goods and their qualitative improvement.

Steel, machine tools, tractors, cement and chemical fertilizer are major Korean exports. In particular, Korean cement is famous of its high quality, as it is made from limestone bountiful in the country whose content of oxidized magnesium is very little. Magnesia clinker is another important item of the DPRK's export goods. The country comes first in the world in the quality and deposits of magnesite, raw material of magnesia clinker. Light industrial goods are also popular on foreign markets. There are strong demands for silk cloth, embroideries, insam wine and other insam products.

On the principles of equality, mutual benefit and reciprocal accommodation, the DPRK has developed trade with not only the socialist countries but also the Third World nations and the West.

Against this background, the Trade Bank has now established business relations with more than 1,000 foreign banks and the amount of foreign settlements grown 36 times those in 1959.

In parallel, great efforts were directed to the expansion and modernization of ports. Among others, Nampo, Haeju and Chongjin ports have been reconstructed as international trading ports.

A number of large cargo ships to be available for foreign trade were built in Korean shipyards. Among them are such 20,000-ton class cargo ships as "Amnok-gang," "Taedong-gang", "Chongchon-gang" and "Yonpung-ho,"and some 14,000-ton class freighters. During the seven-year plan period, the DPRK plans to build larger cargo ships up to 100,000 tons.

This year, great efforts will also be made for the further development of foreign trade. Particular attention will be paid to widening the scope of foreign trade and making it multilateral and diverse.

INDUSTRY

Among other things, last year the total industrial output value increased to 115 percent as compared with the previous year. The DPRK was industrialized only in 14 years from the five-year plan (1957-1960) through the first seven-year plan (1961-1970).

In general, such a process takes a century or more. During the period, the annual growth rate of the economy averaged as high as 19.1 per cent. The following six-year plan (1971-1976) saw 16.3 percent annual growth on an average. Especially, industrial production grew 2.5 times that of 1970.

The economic growth rates of capitalist countries were far behind that of the DPRK between 1970 and 1975: 2.5 percent for the U.S., 2.3 percent for the U.K., 3.9 percent for France and 6.8 percent for Japan.

In the industrial domain, priority was given to the mining industry, and especially to coal output last year. The current seven-year plan envisages producing 70-80 million tons of coal per annum. The target of 50 million tons was achieved already during the preceding six-year plan.

Coal is the major energy source in the country. Through thoroughgoing reliance upon the bountiful domestic coal, energy self-sufficiency has been achieved there. Consequently, the country is completely immune from an energy crisis now befalling the world. This year, emphasis will be laid upon the more excavation of anthracite as well as high-caloric and coking coals.

In other domains, the output of electric power rose to 114 percent, rolled steel to 115 percent, chemical fertilizer to 113 percent and cement to 121 percent, compared with the previous year.

The year 1979 was adorned with brilliant achievements in socialist construction, thus hopefully heralding another decade of an epochal significance.

SIGNIFICANT YEAR

Portraying this year as a very significant year when the Sixth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea will be called, President Kim Il Sung said:

"The sixth party congress will be a historic congress that will sum up our party's and people's splen did achievements and valuable experience in socialist construction and put forward a new action programme; it will be a milestone in further increasing our party's fighting efficiency and developing our revolution onto a higher stage."

Revealing this year's tasks in economic construction, President Kim Il Sung called for a nationwide campaign to carry out them before the Sixth Congress of the WPK slated for October.

The central task is to bring about a radical progress by normalizing production and carrying out the technical revolution briskly in all economic spheres. Accordingly, the mining industries will be definitely kept ahead of the manufacturing industries. As well, effort will be focused upon raising the scientific standard of the economy. Therefore, intensified scientific research work will be promoted first of all.

◀Pyongyang, the cap'tal of the DPRK, changes its looks year after year as modern buildings mushroom.

▼(Below)
Last year, with the maximum utilization of domestically available coal deposits, the Youth Chemical Complex (Anju county, South Pyongan Province) diversified and improved its products. Construction was completed of its urea fert'liser factory, high-pressure polyethylene factory and orlon factory (photo).

(Bottom)
The DPRK attained the per capita national income of $1,920 last year, a virtual two-fold increase over the 1974 figure of $1,000. This is a scene in a department store.

DPRK Joint Olympic Team Proposal Conveyed to South

KAESONG (KCNA) — The two liaison personnel of our side met the personnel of the south Korean side at the conference room of the Neutral Nations supervisory Commission in Panmunjom at 12 hours on December 27, 1979, according to a spokesman of the Olympic Committee of the DPRK and the Korean Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee.

The liaison personnel of our side conveyed the letter dated December 20, 1979 of the Chairman of the Olympic Committee of the DPRK who is concurrently Chairman of the Korea Physical Culture and Sports Guidance Committee in which he proposed to form a joint sports team of the north and the south and participate in the 22nd Olympic Games as a single national team to the liaison personnel of the south Korean side who were authorised by the chairman of the South Korean Olympic Committee who is concurrently chairman of the South Korean Sports Association.

—Industrial Establishments—

Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex

The Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex, one of the biggest metallurgical bases of the DPRK, is located in Songrim City, 70 km southwest of Pyongyang, North Hwanghae Province.

It is a modern combined metallurgical base which produces various metal goods such as steel, rolled steel, processed secondary metal products. It has many modern facilities and machines—remote-controled systems, production commanding systems, open-hearth furnaces, a 80-ton crane—and all its workshops are automated.

The complex was built during the Japanese colonial days but the Japanese imperialists completely destroyed it when they were defeated by the Korean people in 1945. At that time, a certain Japanese engineer said that the rehabilitation of the complex would take the Korean people 20 years, even if high techniques were used.

However, the complex started operation on June 1, 1946, less than one year after the liberation. First, the No. 1 open-hearth furnace was operated and next a coke oven and a steel rolling mill were restored.

President Kim Il Sung visited the complex for the third time on July 7, 1947. The President praised the restoration work done by the workers in very difficult conditions. He noticed a blast furnace, the most important part of the iron and steel complex, which had not yet been restored, and strongly called on the workers to restore it. On the other hand, he guided workers to settle their food, housing and medical problems so that they could devote their restoration work without worrying about their living.

The furnace of which the restoration was said to take 20 years, started operation just four months after the President's visit, in early December, 1947.

It was only for a short period that the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex produced iron after the liberation.

The U.S. imperialists invaded Korea and the Korean War started (1950-1953). They heavily bombed the whole of Korea and the complex was destroyed again. They dropped 2 tons of bombs per square meter on the site of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex.

Three days after the war, on July 29, 1953, President Kim Il Sung visited the complex which had been severely damaged by air raids. The President said that the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex was to play an important role in the national economy.

For the restoration of the national economy, the heavy industry should be rehabilitated on a priority basis, the President taught and continued that workers at the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex should first restore the open-hearth furnace.

The workers started restoration work, collecting iron scraps, brick and useful machines from among the debris in the complex and they built a bigger open-hearth furnace and started producing steel. They restored many workshops one by one and by September 1970, they completely rehabilitated the entire complex. Then, the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex turned into a giant metallurgical base which is now reliably supporting the national economy.

A blast furnace of the Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex in Songrim City, North Hwanghae Province

(To be continued

Impoverishment of South Korean People

The south Korean economy is now faced with a new round of inflation and recession.

Inflation is eating the south Koreans alive. A credit squeeze has started, jobs are hard to find.

The price jump in south Korea has dealt a hard blow to the wretched living of the people.

The spiralling prices in the first half of last year led to a 45% rise in the working people's living cost and a drop of 23-24% in their real income.

Over 5,198,000 pauperized people who are badly in need of relief, have been further impoverished. The conditions of the workers in many enterprises who live on an average monthly wage of 31,600 won, or about one-seventh of the minimum living cost, are little different from the plight of paupers.

The leaping prices have caused a decrease in the real income of peasants, too.

In the first half of last year, the price hikes resulted in an increase of 28.2% in the expenditures of farm households, with a 14.8 per cent fall in their real income, which dropped still further in the latter half of last year.

Not much better are the living conditions of urban merchants and manufacturers and middle class people.

The Seoul authorities squeezed 111,700 million won in internal taxes from the people in November. This brought to 2,795,500 million won the total amount of internal tax collections from the people in the first 11 months of last year.

This was 27% more than the comparable figure for 1978.

They also plundered 592,000 million won in "defence tax" from the people during the first 11 months of last year.

The Seoul authorities extorted this huge amount of taxes by revising the tax law and sharply raising the value added tax at a rate commensurate with the petroleum price hike.

These facts alone graphically illustrate the miserable plight of the south Korean people.

Skyrocketing Prices

The adverse impact of the current conflict between Teheran and Washington on south Korea's economic performance can be predicted by what happened last year. On July 10 last, the oil prices were raised by 59% in south Korea, the second highest increase in south Korean history, following the highest hike of 82.0% made on February 1, 1979. At the same time, electricity rates were increased by 35% on July 12, and on July 11, the prices of oil-related industrial products were hiked by a large margin ranging from 4.1% to 48.0%. This drastic price increase caused a chain reaction, and led to a sharp decline in production.

The jump in the oil price has adversely affected commodity prices and various service charges.

Commodity prices are sharply zooming in south Korea as never before, amidst the serious economic crisis.

According to an official announcement by the Seoul authorities, in the first 8 months of last year wholesale prices went up 20.3% and retail prices 14.2%. But the actual price hikes were greater than these figures.

A report by the World Bank pointed out that "actual prices in south Korea are higher than official statistic figures."

The south Korean authorities raised the bus fares 17.5% and taxi fares 33.3% all over south Korea as from December 19 last.

They decided to hike the coastal sea passenger fares 20.1% and airway fares 40% as from December 23 last.

The railway passenger fares and freight rates are to be boosted 20% from January 10.

Meanwhile, the south Korean ministry of education on December 18 last decided to mark up the prices of middle and high school textbooks more than 10% on an average this year.

In April last bus fares rose 42.8%, taxi and railway fares and other charges 30%.

The sharp raises in freight rates and passenger fares and textbook prices again in eight months have dealt a great blow at the family budgets of the populace.

Increased Unemployment

Recently south Korean companies, large and small, are going bankrupt one after another.

All areas of the south Korean economy have been drawn into "a whirlpool of bankruptcies, swept by a wave of depression.

In April last the Ulsan enterprise becam insolvent with liabilities of 160,000 million won and the next month "the Wonjin group" ended up in bankruptcy with liabilities of 40,000 million won. Also forced into closures were a large number of comprador companies to which the south Korean authorities had granted all sorts of "privileges", listing them as " irst-rate enterprises" or "promising enterprises."

Now over 85% of the enterprises are on the verge of bankruptcy because of shortages of funds and raw materials.

Shutdowns or suspensions of business enterprises and low economic activity have inevitably resulted in a sharp rise in unemployment.

In the first half of last year, 50,000 workers lost jobs due to business difficulties and bankruptcies of enterprises and it is estimated that in the latter half 70,000 more were rendered jobless in south Korea.

The Economic Planning Board estimates that the jobless rate will rise from 3.2 to 5.2%, a significant increase in sout Korea with no unemployment insurance.

A south Korean paper deplored: "Depressed production, continued bankruptcies of enterprises, an increase in the unemployed—these are the realities of south Korea today."

Worsening Housing Shortage

In south Korea today the overwhelming majority of the working people, including workers and peasants, live in misery without shelter.

People without their own houses account for 56% of the urban population and 17% of the rural population of south Korea, according to a recent report by a south Korean paper on housing conditions.

Even those houses where people live, hardly deserve the name. They are mostly matchbox houses or dugouts which cannot keep off rain and wind.

In south Korean cities such houses huddle together on hillsides, hilltops, riversides, river banks and under bridges. Some of them have no doors and in them straw mats are used on the floor.

In Seoul about 100,000 families live in such patchworks of boards which are a mere semblance of houses and people live in no better condition than they would if they had no homes at all.

A south Korean working man in city would have to work full 60 years and save all his wages to get money enough to own a one-room house.

This means that he cannot have a room for life.

Worsened Health Services

A great many sick persons are groaning and dying without medical treatment in south Korea under the anti-people health policy.

The nominal health spendings envisaged in it is no more than 0.7 to 1% of the annual "budgetary" expenditures.

The Seoul authorities fail to issue regularly even this insignificant amount. No wonder the "state" and "municipal and provincial" hospitals under the direct control of the puppet ministry of health and social welfare are so poorly furnished in south Korea. Still worse is the equipment of the health centres and health booths.

To take Raju county, South Cholla Province, for example: There are one health centre and 12 health booths in the county seat and 14 sub-counties, which do not have necessary facilities and medical appliances. And 8 health booths are used as storehouses for a few years now, left without even doctors.

Various infectious diseases are prevalent in south Korea, consequent upon the criminal acts of the south Korean authorities.

Cases of typhoid fever "are reported all the year round" and "each hospital is crowded with them" from April, a report says.

Encephalitis also breaks out every year, taking a sad toll of human lives. The encephalitis cases reported in September totalled more than 200 in South Cholla Province alone.

Clean indifferent to such situation, the Seoul authorities continue marking up the prices of medicaments and doctor's fees. In June this year, they raised the prices of preventive injections by 230% at maximum, commensurately lifting the prices of all other medicaments.

South Korea drastically raised the doctor's fees at the hospitals run by them. At the hospital attached to Seoul university, the hospital charges were raised by between 86 and 315% and the diagnosis and operation fees by between 11 and 183%.

This has stimulated the ordinary hospitals to a competitive raise of doctor's fees.

A sick person must pay 1,400 won to consult a doctor and 2,500 won to have his chest radiographed and he is demanded a fabulous amount of money, if he want to be hospitalized.

Such being the situation, the workers whose monthly wages are more or less one-third or one-quarter of the minimum living cost and the poor population who maintain the barest existence on odd jobs cannot go to a hospital when they fall ill and, even if they go there in critical conditions, they are refused a treatment.

South Korean A-frame carriers waiting for something to carry

Shoeshine boys earning a bare living instead of going to school

1980 Gloomy Year for S. Korean Economy

The south Korean economy faces a gloomy prospect this year—worsening dependence, bankruptcy and disorder.

In nine months of last year the trade gap reached 4,070 million dollars and deficit in the ordinary revenue and expenditure 3,003 million dollars.

A south Korean institute recently said that in the New Year export would decline still further and the oil problem would get so worse that 2,700 million dollars would have to be additionally disbursed to its import, bringing the deficit in the ordinary revenue and expenditure above the 5,000 million dollar mark.

A radio in Seoul expressed uneasiness, predicting that the import of petroleum from various countries through U.S. oil monopolies would be totally suspended or reduced a half from January this year to usher in an "emergency economic period."

If the import of petroleum is suspended or reduced, it will be a hard blow to the operation of the south Korean enterprises which consume 80 % of the imported petroleum for power.

The south Korean ruling circles recently announced that they had a plan to induce foreign "loans" to the tune of 6,000 million dollars in the new year to fill the increasing deficit.

The debts entailed by the "loans" raised by the Seoul authorities at random hit the high of 10,290 million dollars at the end of September last year and they had to clear within last year debts amounting to 2,295 million dollars.

The large amount of "loans" to be incurred this year will further accelerate the bankruptcy and ruin of the south Korean national industry.

About 70 per cent of the foreign loans and capital induced by the south Korean rulers are concentrated on the military domain.

The south Korea intend to repay the staggering amount of foreign debts through the extortion of people and introduction of more foreign capital and cover 94.3 % of the "budgetary" revenue for this year with taxes collected from the people.

Taxes to be levied upon the south Korean people this year average 144,300 won per capita in the central taxes alone. This is an increase of more than 28,000 won above last year's.

On the other hand, the south Korean rulers scheme to raise the prices and issue paper currency at random without security this year, too.

There are in south Korea many people who have not even huts like these.

The Dong-A Ilbo Survey

Human Rights, Liberty Most Precious; 72.8% Prefer Democracy to Economic Growth

"Most of the people here believe that what is most important to the political development of Korea in the 1980's is the promotion of human rights and liberty. They insist that the people's participation in politics through free elections and democratic order to promote human rights are desirable even by slowing down the tempo of economic growth and delaying the improvement of the living standards a little bit."

This is the first paragraph of the top story frontpaged by The Dong-A Ilbo on the first day of 1980. The story is on the findings of a survey conducted by the Social Science Institute of Seoul National University at the request of the daily. The survey is "The Structure of the Consciousness in the 1980's."

The paper wrote: "They (the people) believe that they are fully capable of conducting democracy as in the advanced countries." A considerable number of people favor the formation of a new political party supported by the urban middle class, intellectuals and workers, and they want general elections to be held every four years, the paper said.

Of the pollees, 72.8% prefer the reiteration of democracy to economic growth and a greater income. To a question of what is most important to political development, the largest number, or 23.3% listed the promotion of liberty and human rights as most important, while 20.9% cited the strengthening of national security. Third is social justice through a fair distribution of wealth (15.4%).

As to a question of whether a new political party should be formed, 38.3% replied that such party should be organized. That new party should, the pollees replied, receive the support of the urban middle class (26.1%), the workers (21.8%), intellectuals(16.7%) and the peasants (12.7%). It was favoured by a higher ratio of the people in 20's and 30's, urban students and the professionals.

"Magex-80" Exercise Started Under U.S. Command

The south Korean "defence ministry" on January 4 announced that the command of the thir marine landing corps belonging to the U.S. Seventh Fleet based in Okinawa and Iwakuni, Japan would stage a combined military exercise and a firing exercise similar to an actual war in south Korea in January and February.

This large-scale exercise started on January 4, according to a foreign press report.

In the military exercise codenamed "Magex-80" the U.S. marine units will conduct "a substantial combat exercise" with artillery and air support and "an exercise to get used to severe cold and various topographical conditions," the report said.

During the exercise the U.S. airlifting command "will cultivate its capacity to quickly transport to a far-off base" armed forces and equipment to be hurled into the exercise, added the report.

The U.S. troops conducted every year such a military exercise in south Korea. But the projected exercise will be the largest in scale and it will involve more than 4,00 troops.

This shows that the U.S. authorities continue seeking to provocation of a reckless war against the desire of the Korean people and the world people for the removal of tension in Korea and realization of her independent and peaceful reunification.

Rodong Sinmun

PYONGYANG, January 8 (KCNA)—Rodong Sinmun (organ of the CC of the WPK) on Jan. 8, commenting on the extensive joint military exercises of south Korea and the United States codenamed "Magex-80" now going on in south Korea, says that in view of the composition and size of participating armed forces and of the nature and contents of the manoeuvres, the current exercises are war manoeuvres aimed entirely at attacking and threatening our people with "strength" and straining the situation of our country.

A commentator's article headlined "Desire for peaceful reunification cannot be dampened" notes: The ill-boding goings-on in south Korea prove once again that though the United States is talking about peace in Korea, it is acting quite contrary to its announcements and that a threat to peace in Korea comes precisely from the south, not from the north.

According to the participation of the U.S. marines, "the most elite force" equipped with latest type combat materiel and lethal weapons, the article says: This shows that through the current exercises the United States intends to perfect combat preparations to promptly hurl its marines into action in case of an emergency in Korea.

The article goes on:

The adventurous U.S. military policy may trigger off a war at any moment in Korea and if a war breaks out in Korea it may easily spread to the vast area of Asia.

The U.S. action is an unpardonable aggressive one menacing peace in Korea and obstructing her reunification and a very dangerous one jeopardizing peace in Asia and the world.

The U.S.- military exercises are aimed to demonstrate its military presence in south Korea, back up the "two Koreas" policy militarily and put down the desire of the south Korean people for democracy, the article remarks, and stresses:

If the United States truly wants peace in Korea and her peaceful reunification, it must not try to heighten the tension and fix the division going against the demand and desire of the Korean people and the world people but do an act helpful to her reunification, discontinue the military exercises against the Korean people and withdraw its troops and all its military equipment including nuclear weapons from south Korea.

If the United States withdraw its troops from south Korea, a firm guarantee of peace will be provided in our country and a new era of peace and stability will come to Asia. This will be beneficial to the United States, too.

The United States must look squarely at the trend of the times and refrain from going against it.

Brief News From S. Korean Dailies

Importing 4 Million Straw Bags of Rice

The government is importing 4 million straw bags of rice in RY 1980 (November 1979-October 1980), 2,100,000 straw bags (300,000 tons) of which a contract has already been signed to buy from California, the United States, it was learned on December 29.

Last year 3,500,000 straw bags of rice were imported. According to the ministry of agriculture and fisheries, of the rice import target, the remaining 1,900,000 straw bags are to be imported from Japan.

The per ton price of Californian rice is 380.36 dollars. The import is intended to make up for the decrease in rice reserves caused by bad rice crops.

Of the eight provinces, only two (North and South Cholla Provinces) attained their rice targets, the others recorded ill crops. The aggregate rice output stood at 38,640,000 straw bags, 92% of the planned figure. A province-by-province breakdown is as follows: Kyonggi—5,384,000 bags, 95% of the plan; Kangwon—1,441,000 bags, 86%; North Chungchong—2,422,000 bags, 86%; South Chungchong—5,854,000 bags, 94%; North Cholla—5,813,000 bags, 103%; South Cholla—7,405,000 bags, 102%; North Kyongsang—6,191,000 bags, 86%; South Kyongsang—3,940,000 bags, 74%.

(The Dong-A Ilbo, December 30, 1979)

Martial Law Command Arrest Over 28,880 People

It was announced on December 29 that the martial law command arrested 25,518 people between October 27 and December 28 on various charges. Of the figure, 4,426 were imprisoned.

The arrests were made in a total of 18,425 cases, of which violence accounted 16,787.

(The Dong-A Ilbo, December 30, 1979)

$6 Billion Foreign Loan Planned For 1980

The government is planning to introduce 6 billion dollars foreign loan next year to finance the current account deficit of 5 billion dollars anticipated, it was revealed on December 14.

The government anticipates that the oil bill for next will reach at least 5.5 billion dollars, while exports are outdistanced by imports, thereby making the foreign exchange issue a most urgent question.

In order to maintain the foreign exchange holdings at the level of 7 billion dollars, 25% of the current accounty payment, foreign loans, both long-term and short-term, amounting to 6 billion dollars, are to be introduced.

(The Dong-A Ilbo, December 15, 1979)

Oil Bill Will Top $6 Billion in 1980

Next year we will have to pay 6.2 billion dollars for the import of crude oil, or 3 trillion won, more than half of the 1980 budget set at 5,840 billion won.

Currently, our country imports 560,000 barrels a day for 18 dollars a barrel, but now the price rose to 24 dollars (the actual price will be over 30 dollars), resulting in an additional payment of 108 million dollars for the crude oil import during the November-December period.

A high-ranking official of our country recently visited the spot market and signed an agreement to buy 4,500,000 barrels for 41-42 dollars a barrel, 20 dollars higher than the official ceiling. 90 million dollars is needed to finance this purchase from the spot market.

Gulf Oil Corporation recently informed our country of a cutback of 25,000 barrels of its daily supply of 180,000 barrels.

This year our country bought a total of 191 million barrels at an estimated cost of 3.4 billion dollars, an increase of 1.2 billion dollars or 55% over the 1978 figure of 2.2 billion dollars.

If the per-barrel price becomes 28 dollars for the planned import of 228 million barrels for next year, the total cost will reach 6.2 billion dollars. In case of 30 dollars a barrel, the figure will surpass 6.6 billion dollars.

(The Choson Ilbo, December 18, 1979)

Price Increase 20-30%, Jobless Rate 6%, Economic Growth 0-1%, Trade Deficit $5.8 Billion

The Korea Development Institute on December 18 announced its report "Problems in Economic Management for 1980 and Directions for Their Solutions," predicting 0-1% economic growth, the jobless rate of 6%, a trade deficit of 5.8 billion, dollars and the price increase of 20-30%.

The projection is based on the assumption that the present economic policy is maintained.

The report also predicts a possible 20% increase in money in circulation.

(The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, December 19, 1979)

S. Korean Export Items Weakened In Their International Competitiveness

With the decline of the Japanese currency against the dollar, the export commodities of our country have found their international competitiveness greatly weakened, it was learned on December 17.

According to export firms, the 30% decline in the value of Japanese currency to 230 yen to one dollar increased the export competitiveness of Japanese goods but eroded the competitiveness of Korean goods to that extent.

In case of trade with Japan, the Japanese buyers are busy with decreasing imports from our country and even refuse to buy any more. Seriously affected by this development are minor export enterprises which sell textile and other light industrial goods, 52.4% of the trade with Japan. Japan buys over 20% of exports from this country.

(The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, December 19, 1979)

Bankruptcies Continue One After Another

With the approach of the end of the year, the number of bankruptcies have increased.

Only in Seoul, a total of 801 companies became insolvent from the beginning of the year till today because their bills were dishonored, it was revealed on December 17. In the 4th quarter, the number fast grew, indicating a worsening financial shortage.

By month, the breakdown is: 48 in January, 32 in February, 56 in March, 62 in April, 69 in May, 87 in June, 88 in July, 67 in August, 65 in September, 94 in October, 99 in November and 34 in the first 14 days of December.

Officials concerned attribute the sharp increase to the fact that small enterprises are not qualified to receive favored financial assistance.

(The Seoul Kyongje Sinmun, December 18, 1979)

Auto Output to Be Drastically Cut Back

With the soaring oil price, automakers in this country are concluding that they will not be able to sell cars more than this year's level, it was learned on December 17.

This year, the target was originally set at 250,000 units, but the actual performance stood at 200,000, 80% of the plan.

(The Dong-A Ilbo, December 18, 1979)

Korean-Made Toys Top Most Dangerous 10

It was revealed recently in Boston that Korean-made toy elephant topped the list of 10 most dangerous toys.

(The Dong-A Ilbo, December 20, 1979)

South Korea 1979 in Cartoons and Photos

In 1979, cataclysmic changes happened in south Korea. The big incident was Pak Jung Hi's assassination by his confidant on Oct. 26, ending his 18-year terror rule. In its background lay the strong disaffection of the people with the continued suppressive "yusin" system and economic dislocations resulting from "high economic growth."

Reunification sentiments, the long-sustained desire, mounted, when north-south talks were resumed on Pyongyang's flexible initiative. Opposition party leaders and dissident leaders touched upon the national reintegration at every opportunity. The No. 1 Opposition New Democratic Party President revealed his intention to meet with responsible officials of the north for the earlier reunification, despite the "yusin" constitutional ban on any reunification debate.

Democratic dissident forces were strengthened as never before, in defiance of the harsh suppression by the junta. The workers movement grew as a result of the failure of "export-first policy". The sit-in staged by 200 female workers in August typified that movement. The strike ended in a bloodshed with armed police raiding the female workers, leaving one female killed.

The affair prompted the workers movement to join forces with the dissident forces, students, Christians, reporters and Opposition parties: Grand alliance of democratic forces. They began a joint struggle to overthrow the "yusin" system and restore democratic order. The Pak junta responded with an intensified crackdown, unwarrantedly expelling the NDP leader from the "national assembly" who took the lead in anti-"yusin" struggles. The result was the aggravation of the situation.

Eruption of popular discontent came on Oct. 16, 17, 18 and 19 in Pusan, Masan, Seoul, Taegu and others. In Pusan, over 10,000 students, workers and citizens took to the street and crashed with armed police, which resembled the April 19, 1960 students uprising.

In face of the police losing control, combat troops were ordered into action and martial law was declared, which did not deter the spread of riots to other parts. This development was perceived by the ruling quarters as alarming and divisive. A painful realization in Seoul and Washington was that the removal of the cursed dictator was essential to prevent the things from expanding into the second Iran.

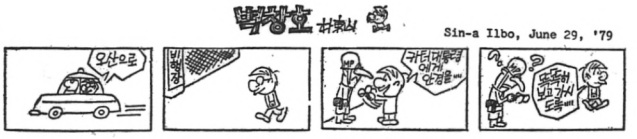
That came the murder of Pak Jung Hi. A new catchphrase is "political development to match economic growth." The fundamental aim remains the same: to retain south Korea as a separate state to meet the Asian policy needs of Washington. Yet, all indications are that the outlook is pessimistic for Seoul and Washington.

Since Pak's assassination, the anti-"yusin" struggle continued ever under martial law.

Public demands are now for the resignation of the present regime and the installation of a democratic coalition government. Here is a brief review of south Korea 1979 in cartoons and photos:

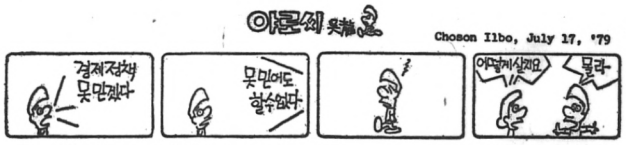
Sin-a Ilbo, May 17, '79

The Raktong River turned into a dumping ground. | In the Han River, fishes had backbones bent. | Let me get into water. | My whole body got bent.



Sin-a Ilbo, June 29, '79

To Osan | airport | Please give spectacles to President Carter | to enable him to clearly see.



Choson Ilbo, July 17, '79

We can't believe economic policy. | Believe it or not. | How can we live? We don't know.

Choson Ilbo, Dec. 15, '79

The latest cabinet reshuffle | is "colorless." | I wonder how political development will be achieved.

新亞漫評

"...learning the art of self-defence."

Sin-a Ilbo, Aug. 13, '79

朝鮮漫評

"How to do with the roots....?"

Choson Ilbo, Dec. 13, '79

▷South Korean workers are paid low wages for their work under the worst conditions, on the pretext of "high economic growth". Legal provisions on three labor rights are dead letters. Photo: 2,000 armed police raided on 200 Y.H. female workers as they staged a sit-in at the NDP head office on Aug. 11 last.

▽Carter's Seoul visit provoked an outburst of anti-American sentiments among the dissidents. Families of political prisoners were seen demonstrating on the U.S. embassy compound in Seoul on June 12. South Korea had been the only place where anti-U.S. sentiments were not significant.

◁10,000 students, workers and citizens staged large-scale riots in Pusan, the second largest city in south Korea, on Oct. 16 and destroyed the buildings of the "government," "KCIA" controlled newspaper offices, etc. The demonstration spread to Masan, Taegu and other cities, creating an explosive situation near to the April 19 uprising of 1960.

▽Martial law was imposed following two nights and days of anti-"government" demonstrations in Pusan. Army tanks were mobilized in order to crackdown the people's resistance. For the first time machineguns were fired to disperse the rioting demonstrators.

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